

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 3 and 4(a). These sheets, which include Figs. 3, 4(a) and 4(b), replace the original sheets including Figs. 3, 4(a) and 4(b).

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite; the drawings have been objected to as not complying with U.S. patent practice and procedure; Claims 1, 2, and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Nippon KKK (WO 01/51192 A1) in view of Narumi et al. (EP 1 043 201 A2); and Claim 3 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is to be noted that such claim has now been canceled, without prejudice.

As for the objections to the drawings, it is to be noted that substitute figures are submitted herewith for the purpose of labeling Figures 3 and 4(a) as prior art.

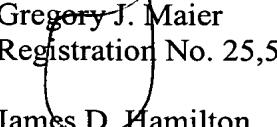
Considering next then the rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Nippon KKK in view of Narumi et al., it is to be noted that Claim 1 has now been amended so as to include the limitations of objected to Claim 3. In view of the

Examiner's indication that language of Claim 3 is patentable over the prior art of record, it is submitted that Claim 1 now merits indication of allowability and the same is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599


James D. Hamilton
Registration No. 28,421
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)

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